



Keweenaw Heritage Site Program

Preserving and Interpreting our Nationally Significant Resources

I. Background

Following an intensive grassroots effort by the local community and extensive study by the National Park Service (NPS), Congress established Keweenaw National Historical Park in 1992 to preserve the nationally significant resources and “interpret the historic synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate to the story of copper on the Keweenaw.” Rather than create a large federal presence, Congress created a park where the NPS owns limited key resources, operates few facilities, and works in partnership with a federal Advisory Commission and the local community to accomplish the legislated purposes.

The Advisory Commission is a permanent federal commission responsible for advising and assisting the NPS at Keweenaw NHP. The Commission also has the authority to raise funds for Park purposes, and conduct historical, educational, or cultural programs throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. The Commission consists of seven volunteer commissioners who are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and one staff member, an Executive Director.

II. Keweenaw Heritage Site Definition

A Keweenaw Heritage Site is a physical place that contains significant cultural and/or natural resources, that makes a unique contribution to the story of copper mining in the Keweenaw, that is open to the public, and that possesses the organizational and management structure necessary to partner with the NPS and the Advisory Commission in support of the legislated purposes of Keweenaw NHP.

III. Keweenaw National Historical Park Purposes (from Public Law 102-543)

- To preserve the nationally significant historical and cultural sites, structures, and districts of a portion of the Keweenaw Peninsula in the State of Michigan for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations; and
- To interpret the historic synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

IV. Partnership Benefits

Joining the Keweenaw Heritage Site Program affirms that your site is part of a larger National Park effort to share a story of national pride and significance for the education and inspiration of all Americans. There are also many other benefits to becoming a Keweenaw Heritage Site. Some key benefits include:

- Enhanced visibility to a regional and national audience, including visitor recognition derived from affiliation with National Park Service branding;
- The opportunity to participate in grant and other funding programs established specifically for Keweenaw Heritage Sites;
- Assistance with the development of print media that coordinates with other sites and intellectually connects the sites for visitors;
- Direct access to preservation professionals for technical assistance ranging from bricks-and-mortar, landscape issues, and grant resources to methods of interpretation, collections care, and visitor demographics;
- Participation in marketing efforts provided by Keweenaw NHP in national, regional, and local publications;
- Assistance with signage issues ranging from visitor wayfinding and facility identification to interpretive panels and exhibits;
- Access to programs that provide educational opportunities for both paid and volunteer staff to learn professional methods of interpretation and preservation through both the Advisory Commission and National Park Service staff; and
- The opportunity to participate in an organized forum with like-minded organizations that share common purposes, goals, issues, and challenges.

V. Keweenaw Heritage Sites Committee

The Keweenaw Heritage Site Program is governed by a standing committee, referred to as the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Committee (Committee), consisting of five Heritage Site representatives elected by the Heritage Sites; two NPS staff members appointed by the NPS Superintendent; and two members of the Commission, appointed by the Commission Chair with approval of the Commission.

VI. Heritage Site Minimum Criteria

All Keweenaw Heritage Sites must adhere to the following minimum criteria:

1. The site has local, state, or nationally significant cultural and/or natural resources that have a unique, contributing connection to one or more of the park's interpretive themes.
 - a. *Natural Resources* - The natural environment of the Keweenaw Peninsula shaped human settlement and copper mining operations that then altered the landscape.
 - b. *Copper's Value* - Copper's value to people drove the interest and desire to acquire this metal.
 - c. *Mining Processes and Technology* - People's quest for copper from the Keweenaw Peninsula began as early as 7,000 years ago and illustrates changes from prehistoric surface collection to deep shaft, hard rock mining.
 - d. *People's Lives and Immigration* - Copper mining framed the lives and livelihoods of Keweenaw people and communities.
 - e. *Historic Preservation* - Remnants of the region's historical resources and cultural heritage facilitate connections to the Park's stories.
2. A site's unique contribution to the story of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula is clearly and actively communicated through publications, displays, exhibits, and other interpretive media.
3. The site has an active, functioning organizational governance structure capable of entering into formal agreements with the National Park Service and the Advisory Commission.
4. The site is open with regular hours of operation, at a minimum, from the Fourth of July weekend through Labor Day. The site's days and hours of operation are posted, adhered to, and included in all publications and publicity. Sites must notify the NPS regarding any changes to the regular hours of operation in order to accurately inform the visiting public.
5. Minimum services must be available to all visitors with no fee or purchase requirement. This includes participation in the National Park Service Passport program and offering informational brochures for the park, the site, and other Keweenaw Heritage Sites.
6. Site representatives agree to notify the NPS of any admission fee requirements so that the fees can be included in all Keweenaw NHP publications and publicity.
7. Site representatives agree to participate in semi-annual meetings of the Keweenaw Heritage Sites.
8. Site representatives agree to work actively toward implementing the Guidelines created by the Keweenaw Heritage Sites. (See attached reference.)
9. Site representatives agree to complete or update a self-assessment form every two years in order to document, maintain, and improve the quality of the program.
10. Site representatives agree to provide statistical data to the NPS staff. A standardized data reporting method will be provided.
11. Site representatives agree to ensure that all staff members (paid and volunteer) of the Keweenaw Heritage Sites are readily identifiable to visitors.

VII. Heritage Site Designation Process

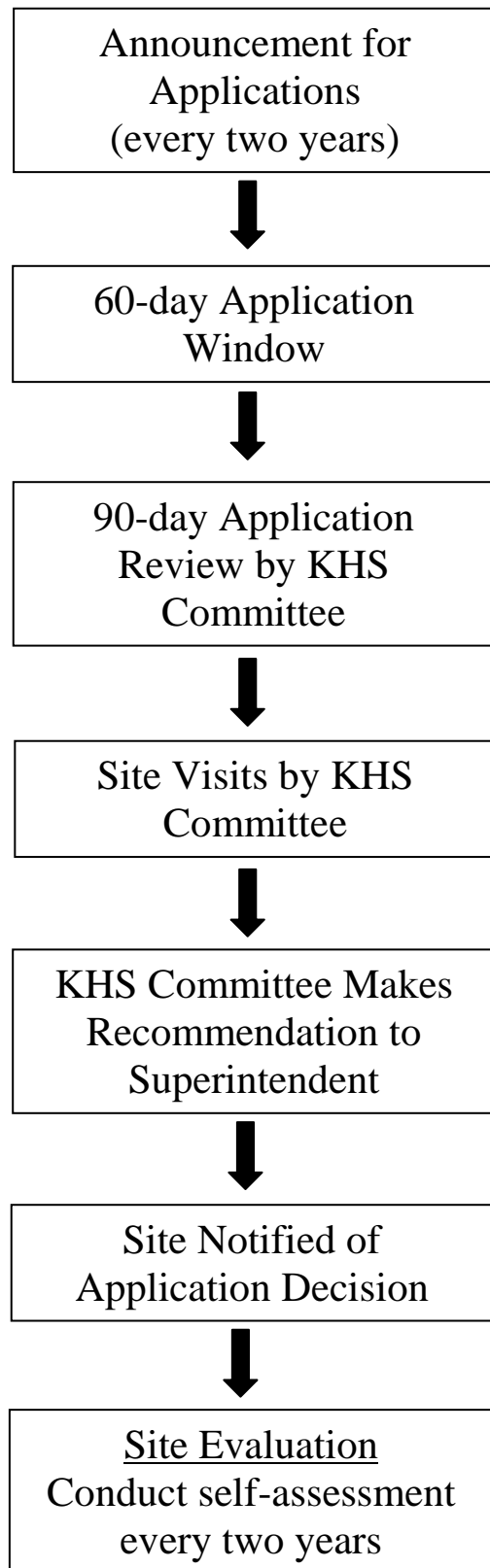
1. General inquiries will be directed through either the Commission's Executive Director or the NPS Management Assistant. The full Committee will be notified of all substantive inquiries.
2. Applications will be accepted at any time, but new sites will only be added to the program during a formal solicitation process held every two years. The Committee will make a public announcement when the formal process has begun, and applicants will have 60 days to submit an application for formal review
3. The Committee will evaluate applicants during a 90-day review period following the closure of the application window. The evaluation may include, but is not limited to, a review of the completed application packet, consideration of how well an applicant meets the minimum criteria, a site visit, and a personal interview with board members and the site manager (where applicable).
4. The Committee will make a recommendation to the NPS Superintendent for final disposition.
5. The NPS Superintendent will provide the applicant with written notification of the designation decision.
6. If an application is declined, the NPS Superintendent will provide the applicant with an explanation, including specific reasons. If the applicant plans to reapply, it is recommended that they seek additional advice from the NPS and Commission staff.

VIII. Application Submission

Applicants can submit their completed applications, including photos of the site's setting, facilities, and resources, through one of the following methods:

- a. Applications may be mailed to:
Superintendent
Keweenaw NHP
Calumet, MI 49913
- b. Applications may be hand delivered to:
Keweenaw NHP Headquarters
25970 Red Jacket Road
Calumet, MI 49913
- c. Applications may be provided electronically to either:
thomas_m_baker@nps.gov or scott_see@partner.nps.gov

IX. Heritage Site Designation Process



X. Management of the Heritage Site Program

- a. Every two years, representatives from each Heritage Site will be requested to complete or update a self-assessment form. The intent of the self-assessment process is to identify Heritage Site needs, identify issues that may be common to multiple organizations, and then devise a plan to address those needs.
- b. Heritage Site organizations that do not comply with the minimum criteria will be contacted by the Committee. If all reasonable attempts by the Committee to engage site representatives fail, the organization will be issued a Notice of Intent that the Heritage Site is under consideration for delisting in 180 days. This advance notice will allow the organization ample time to seek assistance from the Commission, NPS staff, or any source of its choosing to correct the deficiencies. Heritage Site organizations that receive a Notice of Intent must submit a plan for revising their operations to meet the minimum criteria within 60 days of receipt of the notice. The Committee will review the plan and make a consensus recommendation to the NPS Superintendent for final disposition.
- c. Heritage Site organizations may terminate their membership in the Heritage Site Program by providing the NPS and the Advisory Commission with sixty (60) days advance written notice. In the event that an organization files an intention to terminate their membership, the organization will meet promptly with the NPS and the Advisory Commission to discuss the reasons for the notice and to try to resolve the differences.